



DFIRS NEWS

Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System

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Message from the Program Manager

In the interest of making sure all departments are receiving technical assistance within an appropriate time frame please follow the following guidelines for contacting me for technical assistance:

1. Contact SFMO Headquarters at 302-739-5665
2. If I am not at SFMO Headquarters please call 302-242-6428 (0700 – 2300) or if you prefer please e-mail me (crystal.beach@state.de.us)
3. If the above options do not produce a response from me within an acceptable time frame please exercise the following options:
 - a. Contact my supervisor, Grover Ingle at 302-739-5665
 - b. Call FEMA directly at (888) 382-3827

Providing quality service to all 61 Delaware fire departments is of great importance to our agency. Following the above guidelines will ensure you receive such service.

2005 Training Classes

DFIRS training classes held in January were well attended in Sussex and New Castle County. If your fire recorders, line officers, and other relevant administrative members missed these valuable training sessions please contact our office for individual department delivery.

Important Coding Information

As was published in the last two newsletters, the Systems Committee of the National Fire Information Council provided a ruling for incident coding answering the question:

“How should a fire incident when the fire is out prior to the arrival of the fire department be coded?”

Answer:

The incident type would be a fire just as it would be as if the fire is still burning (for example, a building fire is an incident type 111). The actions taken would be investigate or other post fire extinguishment actions.

Please pass this information on to all department members recording incident information, both electronically and manually.

Other Coding Questions

Question:

If specialized fire apparatus such as a hazardous materials vehicle or a fire investigation support unit is purchased on a regional basis, but stored and staffed by a local fire department within that region, how does the department responding with the specialized unit report the incident type and action?

Answer:

The incident type would be reported as the situation they responded to. The department responding with this special unit would be giving aid even though the fire department receiving the aid may be part of the region that purchased the equipment. The persons responding with the equipment would report the actions they took which might be to provide the apparatus (Action Taken 74) with someone else actually using the tools and equipment, or you may document other actions, which involved using the apparatus.

Question:

The following incident took place in a department store. An individual set a fire to a paper towel and held it up to a sprinkler head. The sprinkler activated transmitting an alarm and bringing the fire department. How would this be coded?

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award Announcements for 2005

Department	Amount	Program	Award Date
Harrington Fire Company	\$122,942	Operations and Firefighter Safety	02/04/2005
Hartly Volunteer Fire Company	\$225,000	Firefighting Vehicle	02/11/2005
Wilmington Manor Volunteer Fire Company	\$152,550	Operations and Firefighter Safety	02/18/2005
Lewes Fire Department	\$54,000	Operations and Firefighter Safety	02/25/2005
Brandywine Hundred Fire Company	\$316,026	Operations and Firefighter Safety	02/25/2005
Little Creek Volunteer Fire Company	\$130,500	Operations and Firefighter Safety	03/04/2005
Wilmington Fire Department	\$245,979	Operations and Firefighter Safety	03/04/2005
Belvedere Fire Company	\$21,060	Fire Prevention	03/04/2005
Townsend Fire Company	\$68,073	Operations and Firefighter Safety	03/11/2005

For information on the AFG Program, please see www.firegrantsupport.com

Answer:

The fire was not a hostile fire. The fire was controlled and used as device to set off the sprinkler. The incident type is not a fire (1xx); the incident type code is 710 - Malicious False Call, Other.

Notice to Grant Recipients (Grantees')

Department of Homeland Security's Program Guidance for the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, Section Grantees' Responsibilities. Subsection (8) requires all Grantees' to "...provide information, through established reporting channels, to the U.S. Fire Administration's national fire incident reporting system (NFIRS)...." In addition, "AFG program grantees from previous years will not be allowed to closeout their grants until they demonstrate that they are complying with this requirement. Failure to closeout your previous years' grants may affect the consideration of future awards."

Please make sure your department is: completing incident reports for all department runs, submitting reports to SFMO by 10th of each month, and verifying that the incident reports are of the highest quality possible.

Newsletter Distribution Policy

In order to use our agency resources in the wisest manner possible, the DFIRS Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis using electronic means of dissemination. If for some reason you have not received the DFIRS Newsletter one month after the close of the quarter, please contact our agency.

For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or crystal.beach@state.de.us

PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS